

Mild & Bitter

Keeping Derby CAMRA drinkers informed since 1975

Committee Refreshed at Well Attended AGM

Thirty or so members were present at the Derby AGM at the Flowerpot in February. Chairman, Kevin Hepworth, stood down with Mark Fletcher succeeding him. We thank Kevin for his able stewardship of the Branch during these past few years. Alan Pickersgill, well known to many as licensee of the Brunswick Inn, is now Press and Publicity Officer. Heather Knibbs, was thanked for her efforts re publicity, particularly in relation to the Museum of Making Beer and Cider Festival. Kat Higgins is Pubs' Officer. Karen Cooper received a Branch award in the form of a tankard, acknowledging her membership secretarial work and attendance at Derby beer festivals' membership desks over several years. Gillian Hough is taking over this role after stepping down from the cider and perry position.

The first meeting of the new committee is on Monday, 3rd March in the Dolphin at 8.00pm.

End of an era as Long Serving Secretary Steps Down from the Derby Branch Committee

For the past 30 years, Ian Forman has been Derby Branch Secretary, making him possibly the longest serving Branch Secretary in CAMRA's history. At the AGM, Nic Scott succeeded Ian after garnering one or two more votes. We sincerely thank Ian for his sterling service over such a long time, and welcome Nic into his new role.

Motion for Debate at AGM is Passed

A motion at February's AGM proposed by James Williams was passed in respect of encouraging licensees to have **access statements** for their premises. Also, WhatPub would state whether a particular pub offered facilities and assistance.

Derby Members Invited to Burton CAMRA's 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Support the Local Breweries - Burton Bridge Brewery – 1st March 2025. This is a brewery tour of Burton Bridge along with a presentation from the brewery on their upcoming plans and projects. Social event afterwards. Please Email membership@burton.camra.org.uk if you are interested and want to be put on the list to attend. **50 Year Anniversary Social - Leopard Inn** - 5th March 6.00pm. On Wednesday 5th March 1975 the Inaugural Branch Meeting was held at the Leopard Inn, Lichfield Street, Burton. This meeting is to commemorate the CAMRA Branch 50 Year Anniversary, with a plaque unveiling, and celebrate the significance of the Leopard Inn to the local CAMRA branch. **All CAMRA Members from neighbouring branches are invited to join us and celebrate.** We're looking to unveil a plaque at the Leopard commemorating the inaugural Branch meeting 50 Years ago. Ash Corbett-Collins the CAMRA National Chair (and former Burton member) will be joining us, along with a number of people from CAMRA HQ.

CAMRA Branch Meetings

Derby: Thursday 13th March, in the ground floor lounge of the Dolphin, Queen Street, Derby – 8.00pm.
Amber Valley: AGM Thursday, 27th March, at the Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse – 8.00pm.
Ashbourne: Tuesday, 25th March, at the Compton Club, Ashbourne – 8.00pm.
Erewash Valley: Wednesday, 12th March, at the Crown Inn, Heanor - 730pm.

National Club of the Year Winner

The Firs Club in Codsall, Staffordshire, has been announced as the 2024 CAMRA Club of the Year.

Amber Valley Invites Members to Stand for its Branch Committee at the Old Oak AGM

Should you wish to stand for the Amber Valley committee, please contact Chris Rogers ahead of the meeting on Thursday 27th March at the Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse. Chris's phone number is on page 4.

Ashbourne Winter Pub of the Season

Mandy and Rob have won Ashbourne CAMRA's Winter Pub of the Season award at their House of Beer in the town.



2025 Winter Champion Beer of Britain

Black Gold (4.4% abv) by Cairngorm was overall winner of Winter Champion Beer of Britain, whilst in the Session Stouts and Porters section, Derby's Dancing Duck Dark Drake gained bronze.

2025 Members' Weekend, AGM and Conference

It's at the, Riviera Centre in Torquay between 11th and 13th April and you can register now by going onto the members' weekend website.

Derby Drinker Advertising Manager Required

We're looking for someone to fill this important position. Should the role appeal, please contact Derby Drinker editor, Gareth Stead derbydrinker@derbycamra.org.uk

Derbyshire County Meeting in Belper

The **County Meeting** is in Arkwright's, Campbell Street, Belper from noon to 3.00pm. on Saturday, 15th March.

Fancy Being on Derby CAMRA's Tasting Panel?

Derby CAMRA Tasting Panel Chair, Les Williams, is looking for members to partake of tasting sessions in breweries etc. If you'd like to join in in the fun, please contact lescama39@yahoo.co.uk

Amber Valley Pub of the Year Results

The Pub of the Year winner is the Dead Poets Inn, Holbrook, with the Talbot, Ripley runner up. The cider POTY winner is the Groovers Arms, Peashill. Well done to all concerned.

180+ Beers and Ciders at Burton Festival

The Burton Branch of CAMRA is 50 years old in 2025. It's first festival was held in the Town Hall in September 1980. Burton Town Hall has a festival between 27th and 29th March.

Beer Festivals

5th to 16th March: J D Wetherspoon pubs.

6th - 8th March: 48th Loughborough Beer Festival. Polish Club, True Lovers Walk (off William Street), Loughborough. 55 ales.

13th to 16th March: Murk Fest at the Smithfield, Meadow Rd.

27th - 29th March: Burton CAMRA Beer Festival. Burton Town Hall, Burton-on-Trent. 180+ ales and cider.

4th - 5th April: Castle Beer Festival, Nottingham Castle, Lenton Road, Nottingham. Local Breweries. £10 Admission.

9th to 12 April: Derby's Brunswick and Victoria Inns collaborate to present 60 real ales.

15th to 18th May: Barrowhill, Chesterfield, 400+ beers, ciders.

15th to 18th May: Tap into Tutbury pubs' beer festival extravaganza.

3rd - 6th July: Eyes Have It Festival, Eyes Meadow, Duffield.

The Eyes Have It Music Festival

The 10th Eyes Meadow event is at Duffield from 3rd - 6th July and Amber Valley Branch has been asked to set up a real ale & cider stillage plus staff/serve drinks inside a dedicated marquee with the festival's own volunteers. Overall, The Eyes Have It attracts upwards of 4000 attendees and runs all day - Thursday evening has been added on in 2025 as an acoustic opener. There will be interchangeable staff behind all bars, and an interim budget has been submitted to CAMRA & accepted. Sponsorship would be useful and more information will follow. Bands featured include Toploader (Dancing in the Moonlight) and the Blockheads.

Pubs are Diversifying to Survive and Flourish

The travails of the licensed on-trade have been well documented but Derby is probably unique in having large manufacturing firms in or close to the city. Rolls Royce, Alstom, Toyota and JCB are based in this area and the latter has visitors from overseas staying for up to three months at a time at Mr Grundy's, Ashbourne Road, Derby. Catherine at the Flowerpot reported that trading in January was brisk with folk still venturing out, but sometimes opting to drink low/no alcohol beers in the pub. Clearly this is a growing market.

CAMRA Branch Membership Report

National Numbers (as of end Jan 2025)

As of the end of January 2025, membership stands at 145,538 (decrease of 892 from last month). We are slightly down on new members compared with previous years. Over the 12 months there were 14,617 new and 17,447 lapsed members.

Local Numbers (as of end Jan 2025)

Locally, as of end January 2025, Derby had 2,129, which is a loss of 14 from last month. At the start of the pandemic Derby Branch had circa 3500 members.

Karen Cooper

Little Darley has Large Beer Selection

The former Papermill, Darley Street, reopened in its new guise as Little Darley at the end of January. Refurbished internally, the pub is selling four Derby Brewing real ales plus a brace of changing guests. The all-weather riverside path from the city centre makes access easy from Derby and Little Darley is open all day, every day.

Inn Brief

Notsa, Aston on Trent, has been sold by Derby Brewing, and a local couple now run the establishment. **The Honeycomb**, Mickleover, licensee has retired and Everard's are looking for a new licensee. **The Markeaton**, Allestree (below), looks impressive following a £375,000 refurbishment with a green themed interior and a quartet of real ales.

The **Olde Gate Inn**, Brassington, has a new licensee, twenty-year-old Shannon Lyons. The Grade 2 listed **Black Swan** on the main road in

Idridgehay has been closed for a year and is now the subject of a planning application. Should the application be passed, the place will be converted to

a private dwelling, leaving the attractive village pub-less. The classic **Royal Oak**, The Shambles, Chesterfield, one of the oldest pubs in the county, is reopening with two former teachers in charge. I was sad to read in Derby Drinker that the **Shire Horse**, Wyaston is being delicensed. Fifty years ago, when known as the New Inn, this was Thwaites most southerly tied house and, back then, the Blackburn brewery brewed brilliant beer. When the licensee left, the late Terry Morton organised a coach trip for their last night with at least 50 Derby members in attendance. A truly memorable evening.



Former Publican is Highlighting Pubs in Peril

Since March 16th, 2022, former publican Dale Harvey has visited 5,020 in search of the best British pub. Setting his target at 70 new pubs a week, this is about far more than downing pints for Dale, 44. With 769 pubs closing in 2024 alone, the UK's pub culture is under threat, and Dale aims to visit every pub in the UK.

Bring Your own Vinyl Night at the Golden Eagle

Make a note of Wednesday 26th March when a Bring Your Own Vinyl Record Night is hosted at the Golden Eagle, 55 Agard Street, Derby DE1 1DZ, starting at 7.30pm. DJs are Soul Stew & Jinxie. Book a 20-minute slot on arrival. Play your records yourself, ask the DJs for help or just listen!

Gibbo's Top Pubs Down the Decades: 1980s White Horse, Morledge, Derby.

When John Barnes left the Maple Leaf, an estate brew-pub in Newark, in 1982, his intention was to bring the brewing equipment to Derby, thus ending the (then) 13-year commercial brewing hiatus in the city. This didn't materialize however, but we needn't have worried because at the White Horse, John served Ind Coope Draught Burton Ale and Ansells Mild, both brewed in Burton and high-quality offerings. Previously, Ansells had brewed in Birmingham but a 20-week strike in 1981 saw brewing transferred to Britain's brewing capital. Following John's departure in 1988, the pub was opened out and later became known as the Foal and Firkin, part of a national chain. Today, the White Horse serves a range of real ales.

Notable other: Crompton Tavern, Crompton St., Derby.

Prior to Perry Bailey's long tenure, Clive Akers ran the tavern off Green Lane, serving two particularly good, distinctive South Yorkshire beers, namely Ward's Sheffield Best Bitter and Darley Thorne Best Bitter. Today, sadly, the closed Crompton is residential, but one wonders whether being in close proximity to the soon to be opened Becketwell Arena it could have flourished in a new era.

**Minutes of the Derby CAMRA Branch Meeting
Held at the Brunswick Inn on 16th January 25**

1. Welcome and mobiles to silent please.

2. Apologies:

Gareth Stead, Andrew Norman (financial report published in last month's M&B), Graham Burke (Ashbourne Chair), Charlie Pratt, Les Baynton, Alan Pickersgill.

3. Declaration of Interests

None.

4. Minutes of previous meeting including accuracy/action

Published in M&B.

5. Matters arising

Secretary said some minutes lost including AGM in computer damage, but Paul has a copy.

6. Officers' Reports

6.1 Chair

Nothing really to report but annual statement to follow in M&B. Most felt new CAMRA Logo was underwhelming!

6.2 Treasurer Report in last month's M&B.

6.3 Secretary

(i) Sad new about Geoff Davies from Julian Tubbs, "I have just had a phone call from George Davies, Geoff Davies's father, telling me that he was found dead on 2nd January. There is to be an inquest and the cause is not known. He will keep in touch with me over the funeral arrangements, and I will let you know. He is concerned to dispose of Geoff's collection of Derby beer festival glasses which goes back to the beginning. One suggestion is to donate them to the museum if they are interested. Other suggestions would be welcome. I am sorry to be the bearer of bad news."

(ii) Preparations for 2025 AGM

Ian said these were well in hand.

(iii) Motions for debate at the AGM.

None forthcoming to date.

(iv) Reorganisation update.

Still on hold and Branches to negotiate. Branches can choose if they want extra area or stay the same. Gillian reported that there had been some problems after a very long Regional meeting. RD had left it very late to report. Concerns about RD's accountability. Gillian expanded the details at the meeting.

6.4 Pubs' Officer

(i) POTY/COTY/GBG

POTY had had a poor response but Comms worked very well.

City finalists -Flowerpot; Smithfield; Furnace. **Suburban** - Hole in Wall; Creaky Floorboard; Falstaff. **Country** - Green Man, Willington; Chequers at Ticknall and Shiny Tap, Little Eaton. Judges needed. Cut off for Derby area judging is end of February. Submission by March. COTY only one vote so far. Inherent difficulties with access and certain criteria. Beer scores are really important and are picking up again. More this year than last.

(ii) Mild in May? Item on Diary to start organising. **Need a volunteer to organise it.** James volunteered for going around the City pubs. **Action:** Andrew Norman to contact local breweries re availability of mild (no report yet). More productive if done in summer?

Website map? We don't have any publicity material. Has cider campaign in May diluted the impact of Mild in May? Not possible to include in next DD. Liaise with Burton? Any volunteers to be sought at branch meeting.

(iii) GBGs sold quite a lot but sales have stagnated. 20 to 25 left. January sale £12 offer agreed. GBG selection meeting to be organised for 30th January at Smithfield. Submission of entries to be in beginning of March. WhatPub has been relaunched with new logo and internet location.

6.5 Socials

Jamie working on them. February 20th Peacock and then 1st March is a Shardlow survey, start Dog and Duck 12.00pm. Shrovetide bus on Ash Wednesday from Victoria Inn. Clashes with Loughborough beer festival. Fuddle and Milford walks were both successful. FemALES: Sunday 19th January gathering at The Silk Mill for Sunday lunch. 19:30 on Tuesday 18th February gathering at The Smithfield.

6.6 Young Persons officer Situation vacant.

6.7 DD

Gareth not at meeting but had indicated that the next DD would be out next month.

6.8 Cider and Perry

Smithfield, Victoria and Brunswick to consider and judges needed.

6.9 Membership

Karen is standing down. The branch thanked her for her efforts over the years.

6.10 Beer Festival

Russ thanked everyone who helped and only ONE adverse comment! Lynn has written to all 112 volunteers thanking them. Museum very positive. The Museum has never had such numbers and want to keep the festival there. Numbers slightly down from those projected which may have been due to postings of sold out given out by the museum. Lots of change from previous festivals. Walk in status may have been problematic. We will make a surplus which we can build on. Great success. Waiting for some monies coming in. Surplus to be shared with the Museum. It is hoped that the museum survives for next year. No support from Government or the Council. 35 new members. It is hoped, by this committee, that the new committee continue to support this new festival and thanked Russ and his team for their hard work. Summer festival in the station pubs had also been a success.

7. AOB/ Information Exchange

Member, Mick Nolan died on Friday, 10th January aged 71.

Obituary for Geoff Davies in M&B.

Burton CAMRA festival from 27th to 29th March. It's the 50th anniversary of Burton Branch, and the beer festival is at the Town Hall. Paper Mill has been taken over by Derby Brewing and is currently being refurbished prior to renaming of **Little Darley**. Skittles between Derby and Burton had been successful. **Pear Tree Tavern**, Normanton, has cask Ale.

Meeting closed at 21.26.

**Minutes for the Ashbourne & District CAMRA
Meeting at the Green Man on the 28th January**

Present: Graham Burke (Chair), Mandy & Rob, Phil Lee, Alison Terry, David O'Dell, John Chamberlin and Konrad.

Apologies:

Mark and Diane Grist, Colin Terry, Stephen and Susan Asbury, Gareth & Lizzy Butterfield, Kevin Woolley & Hannah Barton.

Chairman's notes:

CAMRA new logo has been issued to mixed responses. CAMRA Winter ales festival 12th to 15th February at the MAGNA Science Adventure Centre, Rotherham. Presentation to Rob & Mandy at the **House of Beer** for the CAMRA Winter Pub of the Season award was on 22nd January. Derby CAMRA AGM is on 12th February at the Flowerpot.

Secretary: Membership (at 02/01/25) – 79.

Pub News

The **Coach & Horses**, Ashbourne closed in mid-January for a major refit and relaunch, to be now run by local figure Ian Godfrey. The exact relaunch date was unknown at time of meeting, but is expected to be end of February.

Minutes of the Ashbourne Meeting, Continued

The Horns, Ashbourne has been taken on by Kerry Edwards, who has both the Olde Vaults and the Queen's Vaults in the town. The previous operators, the Henfox Group, retain ownership of the building. The **Shire Horse** at Wyaston is permanently closed and up for sale as a private residence. The **Bentley Brook** at Fenny Bentley is now under new ownership and a new management team was confirmed in mid-January. **The Coach & Horses**, Fenny Bentley, is up for sale as the current owners contemplate retirement. **Smith's Tavern** - talks continue towards a permanent deal, may be expected end February once all processes completed.

Cider News: None.

Pub of the Year Competition:

Shortlist so far: House of Beer, The Pavilion, Shoulder of Mutton (Seasonal winners). Other nominations received: Red Lion, Kniveton & Smith's Tavern, The Green Man. Six Confirmed are: House of Beer, The Pavilion, Shoulder of Mutton, Red Lion at Kniveton, Smith's Tavern, The Green Man. Voting/judging forms to be sent out very shortly, to be returned by next meeting 25th Feb, either physical form or via e-mail to Mark Grist. Completed judging forms are preferable, but a simple vote can be accepted.

AOB:

Konrad requested an update on the new CAMRA Boundaries proposal which could see Ashbourne lose 10% of its pubs from the branch. Graham agreed to write to the East Midlands Director for clarification and copy in Derby,

Venues for upcoming meetings:

March 25th Compton Club. April 29th Bentley Brook. May meeting (3rd JUNE) AGM at Smiths Tavern.

Derby Branch Diary

MARCH

Sat 1st – Survey trip to Shardlow. Leave Derby bus station on the Skylink bus to meet in Dog and Duck at noon.

Mon 3rd – Committee meeting at the Dolphin – 8.00pm.

Tue 4th – Standing Order, Iron Gate, beer festival invitation to CAMRA members, from 8.00pm. Usual benefits apply.

Wed 5th – Ash Wednesday trip to Ashbourne Shrovetide from Victoria Inn, Midland Place. Please ask at the Victoria.

Thu 13th – BRANCH MEETING at the Dolphin (lounge), Queen Street, Derby – 8.00pm.

Sat 15th - Derbyshire County Meeting in Arkwright's, Campbell Street, Belper from noon to 3.00pm.

Wed 19th – FemALES, Creaky Floorboard, Kedleston Road 7.30pm to 8.00pm start.

Amber Valley Diary

MARCH

Sat 15th - County meeting in Belper– see page 1.

Sat 22nd – Social in Sheffield City Centre or Penistone Road. Meeting points and specific routes will be confirmed nearer the time. Members and non-members welcome.

Thu 27th - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse – 8.00pm.

Amber Valley Contact

Chairman: Chris Rogers 01332 880041

Ashbourne Diary

MARCH

Tue 25th BRANCH MEETING, Compton Club – 8.00pm.

Ashbourne Contact

info@ashbourne.camra.org.uk

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Derby Drinker Deadline

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